

Civil Service Reform Plank Demanded of Republicans

U. S. Workers Ruled by Law Termed Farce

End Secret Diplomacy and Espionage; Give Government Employee Voice in Departmental Rule

Dangers in Favoritism

Democratization of All Federal Institutions Is Asked for Platform

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: It is generally admitted that governmental institutions are exasperatingly wasteful and inefficient, that the civil service law has become or was from the beginning a mere farce, neither insuring the reward of merit nor affording protection against arbitrary and autocratic chiefs. But so far no one has suggested the remedy for this great evil. The evil persists despite its exposure and despite the activities of efficiency committees, the National Federation of Federal Employees, Civil Service Reform Association and similar associations of professional reformers, for the simple reason that no evil can be remedied by those who professionalize or commercialize it.

The only remedy for this state of affairs will be the democratization of every governmental institution: If we desire to have an efficient government, the reward of merit, security of tenure, fraternal relations between public servants and all the other good things that go therewith:

(1) Let each governmental employee have a voice in the administration of his institution;

(2) Let the employees of each institution elect their own administrative officers;

(3) Let secret diplomacy within each institution be eliminated;

(4) Let all matters of general interest be decided by the majority, such as the laying down of new rules, promotions, change of employment and administrative changes;

(5) Let the scientific heads be recruited by the Civil Service Commission from men of acknowledged ability, who are capable of creating useful work for their subordinates and who can maintain their authority by superior ability and usefulness, and not by intimidation, favoritism, espionage, the sowing of mutual fear and distrust among subordinates, and by driving out of the service the self-respecting, independence-loving type of employees;

(6) Let no position be filled prior to or without an examination;

(7) Let all examinations be real examinations;

(8) Let the distinction between a ruling and a subject class in government service be wiped out by means of elections, the initiative, referendum and recall.

OSIAS L. SCHWARZ, A. M.

120 West Eighty-third Street, New York City.

"Americans for America"

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Why not pick a man who will say "Down with politics—Americans for America!" then there will be no need of petty planks—which have not amounted to a row of pins in the last two administrations.

GEEKEE.

To-Day's Prize Letter

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: In the framing of a national platform that shall make its appeal to the nation's intelligence and sense of moral obligation, should we not look to the rock from whence we are hewn for what genuine Americanism means? Our forefathers, in laying the foundations of our republic, ignored all caste, class, sectionalism or sectarian prejudices. Out of many diverse elements a nation was formed, and out of many conflicting theories of government a constitution was written.

We have been drifting away from the sense of a definite nationalism and we have been faithless to the underlying principles of the Constitution, which guarantee justice, freedom and personal rights to all. The newly incubated internationalism is something which the makers of this nation distinctly avoided. We have also violated the original spirit of

the Constitution by enactments contrary to personal liberty and equal rights as our forefathers understood them.

If the Republican party will take as its keynote in the coming campaign the slogan "Fidelity to the Political Faith of the Founders of the Republic" it will appeal at once to the historic sense of the nation and to the need of rebuilding on the wisdom that shaped divergent communities into a cohesive national unit.

That spirit of the older Americanism is well expressed in the words of the prayer book, "That all things may be so ordered and settled upon the best and surest foundations that peace and happiness, truth and justice, religion and piety may be established among us for all generations." Can modern Americanism express it any better?

ROGERS TAYLOR.
St. George's Rectory, Schenectady, N. Y.

Americanism Seen As Biggest Issue In Political Arena

World Not Ready for Any Kind of Internationalism That Overlaps Principles of U. S. in Covenants

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: The world is not ready for any kind of internationalism that overlaps the strictest conformity to acknowledged principles of keeping our covenants and our treaties.

We can neither justify the action of a Germany in forcing war upon the world or accept a league of nations such as has been Wilsonized.

To arrive at a complete international agreement at the conclusion of the World War was impossible. It has been impossible for the United States to accept the league of nations, and it will not be accepted without reservations.

What we do accept is the intent and purpose of this league, for in this it is believed that the good faith of the most powerful nations shall have full weight.

We add the United States as one of the high contracting parties, yet in greater significance we give our moral force and influence, both of which are formative of a true balance of power, inevitable and conclusive.

I believe that we have need to remember this fact: For without this so-called balance of power there can be no dominance, no right, no authority.

We have need to remind ourselves that as a nation we are entering a period of a most momentous future.

Labor, borrowing of the errors of a discredited capitalism of twenty years ago, sees only its selfish gains from day to day. Votaries of its reforms go to extremes.

To approach a sane international agreement among nations is imperative, yet not more so than the need of a governmental policy which will face our domestic problems and set us right before the world.

To create a definite government pol-

Editor's Note

The Editor again directs attention to the condition of the contest, limiting a single plank to 100 words. A plank exceeding that limit will not be considered. This demand for concise statement is not unreasonable. Some of the strongest platform planks adopted by conventions have required less than fifty words for complete expression.

There is no limit on the number of planks or letters an individual may submit. But of two of equal merit the shorter will be preferred.

icy we must elect those who will safeguard our institutions and stand for a 100 per cent Americanism. C. F. G.

Republicans Advised To Avoid Generalities

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: It is generally recognized by the reading public that the platform contest in your paper is having a stimulating effect on political thinkers, but if it is to have any influence for good you would do well not to lose sight of the fact that people of America are not vitally interested in the generalities expressed in a political platform.

For instance, an article in The Tribune of February 5 stated that the Republican party would place itself on record as guaranteeing an efficient and economical administration. Will some one inform me how it is to be determined whether or not an administration has been efficient and economical? You readily can see that such a generality is without value.

It would be infinitely better for the party to go on record as definitely promising to enact into law such measures for the general good as can be definitely recognized as tending to eliminate glaring injustices in our present governmental system. Promises made must be kept and not ignored as by the head of the present Administration.

ERNEST COLLIER.
43 Vesey Street.

Nation Yearns For Return to A Peace Basis

Roads Must Be Treated Equitably and Re-established on a Paying Footing to Attract Capital

Currency Aid Sought

Remedy Is Suggested to Check Further Advances in Commodities Prices

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: There are many facts at hand to show that the Democratic party has not seriously taken up the problems of peace.

Last October our government had to invoke its war powers under the Lever act to settle what threatened to be a disastrous coal strike.

The high cost of living was called to the attention of our Chief Executive last summer by the railway brotherhoods. Promises were made that the government would check the rising tide of prices. Living costs have, despite those promises, steadily mounted.

Our currency was greatly inflated during the war by the issue of Federal Reserve notes.

Finally, this country has not formally concluded peace with its enemies. The attempt to force us into a visionary league as the price of making peace has failed, yet the Administration refuses to yield to the pressure of public opinion.

It is evidently up to the Republican party to reestablish the country on a peace basis. The following remedies are proposed:

Governmental machinery should be established to handle industrial disputes in a fair and constitutional manner, without recourse to the war powers of government.

The railroads, forming as they do the backbone of our nation's industry, must be treated equitably and reestablished on a paying basis. In no other way can new capital be attracted, which is already badly needed for replacement, extensions and improvements.

Industry must be relocated and essential production encouraged.

The expanded currency should be gradually contracted. This will help check further rises in commodity prices.

Peace should be concluded immediately, even at the sacrifice of the league of nations idea.

VICTOR R. SCHACHTEL.

311 Summit Avenue, New York City.

Party Creed Sought to Stress American Ideals

Defeat Preferred to Victory if Success Means Surrender of Principles

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: There was a time in our political history when party platforms had some meaning and represented different principles upon which the voters divided and acted, but this was before the present day individualism of candidates and the non-partisan advocates of a single cause or of class legislation had become permanent.

A few illustrations prove this statement. The Adamson law was passed by Congress at the instigation of labor leaders under threat of a railroad strike. It was not so much the fear of the strike that influenced its passage, but the fear of the labor vote at the coming national election.

The Anti-Saloon League policy of supporting individual legislators, both state and national, regardless of party or their general fitness for office if they could secure their votes for prohibition has brought a new political method into existence.

What should a platform of a safer party, or as we were talking about, the Republican party, be? Is it to be a mere collection of promises, more or less of a creed containing basic fundamental principles of government and ideals of true Americanism and democracy or will it be a combination of all ideas to catch the vote of every form of "ism"? Is it to be made largely to win or will it be such that the party if it does win may be found to have won a victory under it. Better the right platform and lose than a lowered standard of policy and ideals and win. I. H. B.

Love of Country Urged

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: The Republican party should demand the creation of an American spirit that is not merely satisfied with the waving of flags, singing of patriotic airs, spraddleism and the declaiming the Declaration of Independence, but a spirit that demands of every American his greatest effort and highest ideal, be it the matter of cleaning his sidewalk or jury duty, or office holding. EAST ORANGE

Conditions of the Platform Contest

The Tribune invites you to write planks for a Republican platform and to write letters about planks proposed by other readers through its columns.

For the best planks and letters The Tribune offers these prizes:

For the best plank \$500.00

For the second best plank 250.00

For each of the eight next best planks 100.00

For the best letter a daily prize of 10.00

For the best letter in the whole competition 100.00

The Tribune will make up a platform of ten planks to be determined by your votes. The ten issues receiving the most votes will be the planks. The ten planks that best express the chosen issues will be selected for the prize awards.

Each plank is limited to 100 words. Of two planks or letters of equal merit the shorter will be chosen.

Every plank and letter must bear the name and address of the sender, although a nom de plume will be published if the writer desires.

The contest will close at midnight, April 30, 1920. Manuscripts will not be returned.

The judges of the contest will be three of The Tribune's editors. They will base their decisions on sound thinking and brevity, clearness and strength of statement.

Some Suggested Planks

Among the mass of suggestions for planks in the Republican platform are the following:

Develop Practical Inventions

In the interest of intensive development of national resources and to encourage the development of practical inventions in the fields of engineering and science, the Republican party advocates the introduction of institutions financed by the state to enable such inventions and improvements to be developed without direct cost to the inventor and with the facilities for patent rights left unimpaired.—J. R. Farley, 363 Ridgefield Avenue, Bridgeport, Conn.

Conserve National Resources

We advocate the conservation of wild life and national resources, and the education of the people as to the benefits to be derived by their proper care. Farmers should be encouraged to plant trees on ground unavailable for farm use.—H. G. Hutchinson, 703 Riverside Drive.

Keep Government Intact

We condemn attempts on the part of any one of the three branches of our government to encroach upon the constitutional rights of the other two branches. The most flagrant instance of this has been the attempt of the executive branch to dominate the legislative branch. The executive branch was instituted to carry out legislation, not to dictate it.—H. G. Chase.

Deportation for Undesirables

We would provide for the naturalization of the foreign born only on positive proof that they can read and write the English language, and for the deportation of all undesirable foreigners whenever they are proven such by a fair and impartial trial.—E. T. Faust, 1895 Honeywell Avenue.

Frame Liquor Laws With Care

All summary legislation should be submitted to where the framers of the constitution placed it, with the several states—and all laws designed to control the evils of the liquor traffic should be so framed as to conserve, rather than destroy, vested rights and the national revenue.—A. J. A. Morgan, 1060 Amsterdam Avenue.

Increase U. S. Bottoms

The Republican party advocates the enactment of a law to allow a 10 per cent rebate on all import duties on such goods as are carried in ships owned, officered and 25 per cent or more manned by American citizens. J. O'B.

Put Labor Under Rule

All labor organizations shall be incorporated and shall be amenable to the same conditions, rules and regulations as are enjoined upon all other corporations which are organized or maintained for purposes of manufacturing, transporting or producing supplies, materials or products of any kind or character.—George B. Burbank.

Education for All

A common language being a fundamental basis for a united people, we believe that the English language, the language of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, should be understood by every in-

dividual within our borders, so that from this knowledge there may spring a more loyal allegiance to our national ideals of democracy. We therefore pledge ourselves to further the cause of American education in every feasible manner, and to eradicate the blight of illiteracy.—Ralph Loiselle.

Economy Pledge Required

The Republican party pledges itself, if it is returned to power, to appoint at the very outset of its administration a joint committee of Senators and Representatives who will be charged with the duty of working out a policy of economy and retrenchment.—Hooker.

Abolish Class Feeling

We strongly deprecate the fostering of class feeling or prejudice, or giving any body of citizens any special privileges or dictatorship over any others. Barriers between classes lead to barricades in streets. Therefore a man's brains, skill, industry and good citizenship should admit him to any social position or office in the gift of the nation.—Charles H. Crandall, Stamford, Conn.

Industrial Peace Sought

An industrial relations committee, a new step in calming industrial unrest and in promoting harmony between capital and labor.—S. S. S.

Specific Platform Indorsement

It is the intention of the Republican party, if placed in power, to carry out all the principles of this platform within the next four years. We expect every Republican nominee to either publicly indorse this entire platform, promising to do all that he can, consistent with the office to which he may be elected, to carry out its principles, or else to make out a public statement before election of those planks, or parts of planks which he cannot or will not indorse.—Aretas A. Saunders, 21 Edlie Avenue, South Norwalk, Conn.

Encouragement for Aliens

Abundant opportunity and encouragement should be given to all of foreign birth to learn our language and history. Such well-meaning immigrants should receive an honorable certificate on attaining full citizenship, and communities should make special effort to assist such aspirants.—Charles H. Crandall, Stamford, Conn.

Test Loyalty of Aliens

The Republican party, dedicated to American ideals and their fulfillment, declares its paramount purpose to be the vigorous enforcement of an American policy for the American people, and to that end it pledges Congress to a speedy enactment of measures regulating immigration to safeguard the highest interests of American citizenship through the application of morality, educational and loyalty tests as a condition precedent to the granting of naturalization papers, which shall be subject to revocation under due process of law.—H. R. B.

League Opposed, With or Without Reservations

Repeal of Prohibition and U. S. Control of All Commodities Favored

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: I send you herewith my suggestions as to what the planks in the Republican platform should be.

1. To defeat the league of nations agreement, with or without the reservations, and to stick to the old American policy of no entangling alliances with European countries.

2. To repeal the national prohibition amendment so that light wines and beer may be manufactured and sold for beverage purposes same as before, and to make laws to allow whisky to be dispensed so much a day to all who want it.

3. To make the United States Navy the equal of any navy in the world; to uphold the Monroe Doctrine; compulsory military training for the youth of the nation and the American merchant marine that our goods may be carried in American vessels, and thereby increase American shipping.

4. To permit free speech when not

radical nor Bolshevistic, and freedom of the press; to increase our agricultural and mineral production by developing the undeveloped farm land, and to utilize the production therefrom.

5. To have government control of all commodities so as to prevent profiteering in the same, and to standardize the prices of all things by the government; to uphold equal rights to all peoples regardless of race, creed or color; to uphold law and order at all times; to make lynchings a Federal offense, and to distribute educational propaganda to prevent lynchings.

GEORGE W. BEATTEY,
49 West Seventy-second Street, City.

Military Training Called Unnecessary Expense Now

To the Editor of The Tribune:
Sir: We have in America three million men, whose military training qualifies them to withstand any attack from a foreign country during the next ten years. Universal military service for that time would cost \$5,000,000,000. We believe in the reduction of our national debt and favor the use of this money for that purpose.
T. B.
185 Joralemon Street, Brooklyn.



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